

**WESTMINSTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
September 29, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Westminster Traffic Commission was called to order by Commissioner Hamade on Tuesday, September 29, 2009, at 6:15 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Boulevard, Westminster, California.

SALUTE TO FLAG

Commissioner Hamade led the members of the audience in the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Hamade, Nguyen, Fisher, Robbins, Cruz

Commissioners Absent: None

STAFF PRESENT

Adolfo Ozaeta, Civil Engineering Associate; Lieutenant Bill Collins, Westminster Police Department; Veronica Johnson, Secretary

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

The minutes of the Traffic Commission's regular meeting of June 30, 2009 were approved. (5-0)

**ITEMS TO BE
CONSIDERED**

The only item to be considered at this evening's meeting was T.C. 77-142, On-Street Disabled Parking at 16461 Van De Velde Way.

**T.C. 77-142
16461 Van De Velde Way**

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that staff had received a written request from Mrs. Lynette Chaitram (16461 Van De Velde Way) requesting installation of a disabled parking space in front of her residence.

Mr. Ozaeta provided background on this item as it was previously brought to the Traffic Commission in October of 2008. Residents in the audience opposed the installation of on-street disabled parking. Staff's recommendation was to deny the installation of a disabled parking space. Mrs. Chaitram appealed to the Mayor and City Council and a temporary on-street disabled parking space was granted for a six month period.

The City of Westminster has a disabled parking policy to accommodate its residents.

When the criteria is met, a section of on street public parking is designated by painting the curb blue and posting a regulatory sign at that particular space.

STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION

Staff's recommendation was to deny the request for disabled parking restrictions at 16461 Van De Velde Way and return it to a regular parking space.

Billie Chase, 8591 Boone Circle, spoke in favor of the parking restrictions. Ms. Chase provided three booklets entailing a proposal on behalf of Mrs. Chaitram as she has been very weak, sick, and disabled since 1989. The first exhibit revealed her place of residency; the second, her medical records and the third; her proposal. Her plea was for installation of an on-street disabled parking to be used exclusively for her, her husband, anyone who qualifies for a vehicle tag in her household and emergency transportation vehicles; such as fire, police and ambulance.

Vincent Lozano, 7792 24th Street, spoke in favor of the parking restrictions. Mr. Lozano's wife provides physical therapy services to Mrs. Chaitram on a weekly basis and has to inconveniently park around the corner or at the shopping center due to the limited parking. Mr. Lozano asked the Commission for leniency and grant the on-street disabled parking for Ms. Chaitram as she goes through this hardship.

Richard Gosliga, 16491 Van De Velde, spoke in opposition to the parking restrictions. Mr. Gosliga provided three sets of photographs as exhibits. The first photograph showed the front of Mrs. Chaitram's street, driveway and garage. Mr. Gosliga explained if items were removed from the garage there would be ample parking in her drive way and garage to gain more parking. The second photograph revealed efforts by other residents who poured concrete on their front lawns to gain additional parking. The third photograph illustrated a neighbor obstructing the sidewalk to accommodate parking for his vehicles and who had been cited for blocking the sidewalk. Additionally, another neighbor had also expanded his parking. Mr. Gosliga also added that he had been cited himself and has had to park in his yard at times due to the lack of parking in the area.

Mr. Gosliga stated that he believes that the value of the properties in their neighborhood are diminishing and further explained that he is a general contractor and is familiar with ADA and Title 24. Mr. Gosliga's closing statement was that the City was not obligated to provide on-street disabled

parking and requested that certain obstacles be taken into consideration for safety issues such as the telephone pole, the grass, water meter, brick trim and the obstructions in the front and rear of the disabled parking space.

Discussion ensued regarding how many people resided at the subject residence and the accessibility to the house from the garage or the driveway. Mrs. Chaitram was asked where she had parked when a neighbor had parked a vehicle in the on-street disabled parking place for two weeks.

Mrs. Chaitram responded to the Commission's questions. Three people, herself, her husband and a tenant reside at the subject residence, two being drivers. The garage has direct access to the home but it is currently full of items just like her other neighbors. Mrs. Chaitram responded that during the two weeks a neighbor was parked in the disabled parking spot, she had parked in the driveway because she wanted to keep the peace. She feels that it is more difficult for her to get in or out of her vehicle due to the incline of the driveway.

Mrs. Chaitram stated that she had 8 signatures from the residents in the cul-de-sac. The majority of the residents were in her favor; 6 agreed, 1 opposed and 1 was neutral for the installation of disabled parking.

Vice Chairman Fisher stated she had visited the area during the evening hours and believes that there is a real need for parking, not only in this neighborhood, but in the whole city.

The Commission explained that they need to evaluate the need for parking restrictions for whole community rather than individually. They would like ample parking for everyone. Disabled parking is available to the public and is not a private spot.

Mr. Ozaeta introduced Lt. Collins who is currently overseeing the Police Traffic Bureau. Lt. Collins clarified that the City does not have permit parking or exclusive parking for one person.

Lt. Collins raised concerns regarding Mrs. Chaitram's pseudo-seizures, her own safety, and the public's. Lt. Collins stated his observations of the path from the on-street parking to and from her house and his belief that it would be safer to enter and exit a vehicle in the garage or driveway rather than the street.

Discussion ensued among the audience and Commission.

MOTION

Commissioner Nguyen moved to approve staff's recommendation to remove the on-street disabled parking at 16461 Van De Velde Way and return it to a regular parking place; seconded by Vice Chairman Fisher. Chairman Hamade stated that if anyone disagrees with the decision of the Traffic Commission they could appeal it with the Mayor and City Council.

VOTE

The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Ozaeta clarified the process for an appeal.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no "New Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no "Old Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**INFORMATION
AND REPORTS**

There were no "Information and Reports" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ORAL
COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no "Oral Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**WRITTEN
COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no "Written Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ITEMS COMMISSIONERS
MAY WISH TO DISCUSS**

There were no "Items Commissioners may wish to discuss" at tonight's meeting.

**ITEMS STAFF MAY
WISH TO DISCUSS**

Mr. Ozaeta had 3 items for discussion. First, he stated he had received the letter of concern from Vice Chairman Fisher and a voicemail from the Mayor on behalf of residents in the community to evaluate the roadway conditions in the Sigler Park area. This item will be brought forth at the next Traffic Committee Meeting for discussion. The recommendations will be presented to the Traffic Commission and the Mayor will be notified of the outcome of the study.

Secondly, Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that the I-405 Scoping Meeting will be taking place tomorrow in the City. OCTA is proposing nine alternatives for improving the freeway. One alternative would be the widening of the

freeway which would result in a loss of approximately 100 homes adjacent to the I-405. Approximately, five years ago, the Mayor and City Council made clear that they would not support anything that would result in property acquisition from a resident or business owner. As a result, OCTA directors approved nonstandard 12 foot wide lanes to squeeze in one lane on the freeway. Another alternative would be to turn the freeway into hot lanes and/or high occupancy toll lanes. This would require adding one general purpose lane and one High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane. The environmental review process would identify the need for property acquisition if required.

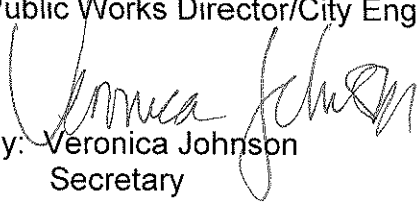
Lastly, Mr. Ozaeta explained that the City had received the funding for the Safe Routes to School in the amount of \$660,000.00 from the State of California for parkway and school crossing improvements. The four locations for enhancement are Edwards & Humboldt, Bushard & Oasis, Bushard & Westwood and McFadden & Dalewood. The upgrades will include signage at the crosswalk and flashing beacons.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marwan Youssef
Public Works Director/City Engineer


By: Veronica Johnson
Secretary